

represented the vast majority of these cases. For white males aged 25-34 years, infectious diseases ranked second only to motor vehicle accidents as a cause of death. These diseases accounted for 17% of their deaths. They ranked second as a cause of death for black males ages 25-34, accounting for 26% of deaths. Infectious diseases ranked fifth as a cause of death, tied with other accidents, for white females in this age-group, and accounted for 6% of their deaths.

When looking at the 35-44 age-group, infectious diseases diminished in rank as a cause of death in all but the black male category. In that instance, they ranked second after heart disease.

The age-group from 45-54 years of age reflects further the diminished importance of infectious diseases as a leading cause of death in all but one race/sex category, namely black males. These diseases ranked third as a cause of death for that group.

Among persons aged 25-44 years, under-reporting of deaths attributable to HIV infection and the complications of AIDS, may range from 25% to 33%. An estimated 55,000 to 60,000 persons with AIDS died in the United States in 1994 with only 42,000 captured using the underlying cause code. Fully 24% to 30% of AIDS deaths are missed annually, and the numbers for individual states may be higher.

Almost all Tennesseans diagnosed with AIDS from 1985-1986 had reportedly died by December 1995. Fifty-five percent of all cases diagnosed with AIDS in Tennessee have died as of March 1996. Males exhibit longer survivorship than females. But the sex differential has narrowed sharply.

For the period 1994-95, whereas males ages 30-39 years constituted less than 8% of the State's population, they comprised 43% of persons dying from AIDS. Males ages 20-29 and 40-49, too, were vastly over-represented among AIDS deaths. All other age-sex-groups were under-represented. While comprising 78% of the Tennessee population, combined they represented only 18% of AIDS deaths.

A higher percentage of whites survived through the period than did blacks. Among the 1986 diagnostic cohort, whites manifested a survival advantage of 6 to 7 months over blacks. However, this differential is minimized, and even reversed among later cohorts.

Cumulative proportions of AIDS cases reported with opportunistic illnesses suggest that the leading one was pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (33%), followed by wasting syndrome (12.5%) and esophageal candidiasis at 12%. It is important to note that OIs are under-reported to an unknown extent in this data set.

Sixty-three percent of all adult/adolescent AIDS cases in Tennessee from 1982-1995 had accompanying OI diagnoses, more among males (73%) than females (64%).